

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas has customarily recognized a  
2 variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of  
3 the state's historical and cultural heritage; and

4           WHEREAS, The Texas State Railroad, an East Texas fixture for  
5 more than a century, had its origins in the iron-industry boom that  
6 East Texas experienced in the 1870s and 1880s; in 1875 the state  
7 legislature authorized construction of a new penitentiary near Rusk  
8 in order to develop the iron-ore resources of the area, as well as  
9 to relieve overcrowding at the penitentiary in Huntsville; the  
10 ensuing iron works at the East Texas Penitentiary provided material  
11 for the present State Capitol, including the iron that was used in  
12 the building's columns and dome; and

13           WHEREAS, To facilitate the transport of iron ore for the  
14 smelter and foundries, as well as timber for the prison's sawmill,  
15 construction was begun in 1881 on a line known officially as the  
16 Texas State Railroad, and by 1909 the road had been extended to  
17 Palestine in adjacent Anderson County; and

18           WHEREAS, In addition to hauling raw materials to the  
19 penitentiary, the railroad offered regular passenger and freight  
20 service from 1907 to 1921; prison inmates, who had constructed the  
21 entire line, made up the train crew, except for the engineer, during  
22 much of this period; and

23           WHEREAS, The iron works at the prison closed in 1913, and  
24 eight years later the state began leasing the track of the Texas

1 State Railroad to private companies; over the next half-century the  
2 line served in particular to move lumber and timber products; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1972, after most of the road had remained unused  
4 for several years, the Texas Legislature conveyed the line to the  
5 Parks and Wildlife Department; at the urging of rail enthusiasts,  
6 and after studying the feasibility of such a project, it was decided  
7 to restore the line as part of a state historical park and to  
8 dedicate the complex to the preservation and interpretation of the  
9 country's railroad heritage; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1976, as part of the nation's  
11 Bicentennial celebration, the Texas State Railroad State  
12 Historical Park opened to the delight of countless citizens across  
13 the state; in 2002, more than 130,000 people visited the park,  
14 including 83,000 from outside the area; of those visitors, 41,110  
15 took a ride on one of the trains that makes the run through the piney  
16 woods and rolling hardwood creek bottoms between Palestine and  
17 Rusk; and

18 WHEREAS, A fully self-contained system, the Texas State  
19 Railroad operates four steam engines and four antique diesel  
20 locomotives; in addition, it maintains a complete steam-engine  
21 restoration shop, 29 miles of track, and 24 bridges, including one  
22 over the Neches River; and

23 WHEREAS, Included in the railroad's stock are Steam Engine  
24 No. 201, donated by the City of Abilene and once used by the Texas &  
25 Pacific Railroad; Steam Engine No. 300, donated by Temple  
26 Industries in Pineland; Steam Engine No. 400, purchased from the  
27 Magma Copper Mine in Magma, Arizona, and once used by the Tremont &

1 Gulf Railway in Central Louisiana; Steam Engine No. 500, owned at  
2 one time by the City of San Angelo; and Steam Engine No. 610,  
3 operated by the Texas & Pacific between Shreveport and El Paso until  
4 1950 and displayed in Fort Worth for a number of years; in the 1970s  
5 the publisher and philanthropist Amon G. Carter, Jr., financed the  
6 restoration of No. 610, and the engine became one of two that pulled  
7 the Freedom Train through Texas during the Bicentennial; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the years, the railroad has received  
9 significant attention in many quarters and has been featured in  
10 television series, documentaries, commercials, music videos, and  
11 full-length films; and

12 WHEREAS, The Texas State Railroad and its historical park  
13 have contributed greatly to the prosperity of the surrounding area;  
14 in 2002 they injected nearly \$1.5 million into the local economy,  
15 generated more than \$4.6 million in sales, and produced a more than  
16 \$1.8 million impact on the income of local residents; and

17 WHEREAS, Deeply rooted in the life and industry of East  
18 Texas, the Texas State Railroad is today one of the largest steam  
19 train operations in the country; through its preservation program,  
20 its excursion tours, and a wide variety of educational efforts, the  
21 railroad constitutes an outstanding asset to the Lone Star State;  
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
24 hereby designate the Texas State Railroad as the official Railroad  
25 of Texas.

Hopson  
Cook of Navarro

David Newkum

President of the Senate

Jim Caddell

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 34 was adopted by the House on April 3, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Hamey  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 34 was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Lately Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 20 JUN 03

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
4:30 pm O'CLOCK

JUN 22 2003  
Ann Shea  
Secretary of State